



Our Mission: *FBC Brady is a family that exists to*
Give—by meeting real needs in our community
Grow—by equipping people to become authentic
Christ followers
Go—by taking the gospel message to Brady and beyond

newsletter

FBC Brady, TX
325-597-2956

<http://www.fbcbrady.org>

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Message From The Pastor: *Total Chaos, or Silent Night?*

by Jeff Quattlebaum, senior pastor

When I was growing up I could not wait for the Christmas season. I loved everything about it: the decorations, music, and the way people would interact with each other. It was a magical time of year. If I had to lay claim to what I enjoy most about Christmas time (other than watching my kids' faces light up on Christmas morning) it is probably the Christmas music. A Christmas song that has always intrigued me was composed in Austria in 1818 by Franz Xavier Gruber and the words by Father Joseph Mohr. It is entitled *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* or "Silent Night, Holy Night."

It was a crazy time of year for Mary and Joseph to say the least. Mary is nine months pregnant, due to give birth at any time, and now Joseph has to take his wife on a journey to Bethlehem to be registered to pay a tax (Luke 2:1-5). On the way to Bethlehem, riding on a donkey, Mary goes into labor, and now Joseph is in a panic. Tired from their journey, no place to stay, wife about to give birth, it is far from a silent, peaceful night at this moment.

It is chaos in the city of Bethlehem. People from all over are coming to register, there are parties going on, there is constant chaos, and Joseph is frantically trying his best to find a place where Mary can give birth. The only place for them, according to the Scriptures, was a stable, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

The birth of Jesus was probably not peaceful; it was a natural birth with no modern pain medicine or nurses to help, just Mary giving birth with Joseph there to catch the child when He was born. When the birth was over Mary probably didn't take the time to do her hair and makeup to look the way she is depicted in the nativity scenes we see today.

It was a time of total chaos everywhere; however, the first verse in *Silent Night* says, "All is calm, all is bright." In the midst of all the chaos, peace was there because God was there. God had done the unthinkable: He clothed Himself in flesh to live among His people, teach His people, and ultimately die for His people (Romans 5:8). The last words of *Silent Night* are, "Christ the Savior is born," and it reminds us that in the middle of all the chaos we can sleep in heavenly peace because the Savior is born. Celebrate the birth of the Savior this Christmas season, but remember it's about the Cross. The Cross is what gives us the ability to say, "All is calm, all is bright" when total chaos is all around us.

I hope and pray that you have a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jeff

From Godly Impressions Preschool: *Christmas, and the end of a challenging year*

Godly Impressions Preschool is sad to announce that we will not be having a Christmas program this year to keep in compliance with CDC and state rules. However, we have many fun festivities planned for the children including a Polar Express Pajama day, crafts, and pizza parties. This month we will be learning the color white, the star shape, and letters Nn-Pp. We will also be discussing the true meaning of Christmas in Chapel.

December is the last month of our calendar year, a closing to the chapter that 2020 has been. I think most people would agree that 2020 was a time of testing, hardships, and a valley between the mountains. I don't think many people will be sad to see it go, and they are ready to resume their "normal" lives. I can't imagine that it was much different than when people went through disaster and plagues in Biblical times. I'm sure they were ready for it all to end and to go back to normalcy. However, as I was reflecting on this I noticed that when they resorted to their old ways, they missed their opportunity to let the hardship refine them. God tells us in Zechariah 13:9 that He will refine us like gold, we will call on Him and He will answer.

We know that gold is refined by being put in extreme heat until it separates from its impurities and the process is repeated over and over until the goldsmith can see himself in the gold. So instead of looking to go back to our pre-2020 lives, let's move forward with the resilience it has taught us, the faith we've had to hold on to, and the appreciation for community and touch that we are missing so dearly. Let it refine us so that we may look more like God.

Ashlee Shaw, Godly Impressions Preschool Director



December 2020 at First Baptist Brady

—from *Marsha Gainer* and the **Children’s Ministry Team**

The Children’s BAM program will have a family night on December 16th at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with songs, pizza, and cupcakes. That will be our last BAM meeting until the new year.



—from *Karen Behrens* and the **Music Team**

Christmas is right around the corner and we are so excited to be able to present the Community Choir on Sunday, December 13th, at 4pm. We will *not* have the choir sing on the 12th due to Christmas on the square at the Courthouse. We also are preparing music for our candlelight service Christmas Eve at 6:00.

We appreciate everyone who has dedicated their time in serving in music and the PowerPoint. I know that it is a lot of work, believe me. But our work does not go unnoticed.

I am reminded of Hebrews 6:10: *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

Blessings,
Karen



—from *Betty Smith* and the **Missions Team**

1. November Food Distribution - we gave out 109 adult boxes and 29 children's boxes. Looking towards December distribution, we plan to give out sacks of Christmas cookies in each food box. Ladies, we ask you to bake cookies and package them in small Ziploc bags, 2 cookies to a bag. Bring them to the church office on or before Wed. Dec. 9th. We thank you for this endeavor. Additionally we support the Large Christmas Sacks give-out that Laurie Morton is heading up. Bring your contribution of household goods to the church office before Thursday, Dec. 10. Shampoo and body wash are especially needed.

2. RaNon Caraway continues teaching the Parenting Class. She just graduated one with a certificate in hand, and has a new one still in class. Please continue praying for this meaningful ministry.

3. Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions will start next Sunday, November 29th and run through December. Our goal is \$2,500.00.

4. Collection of items for the Frank Banda Ministry on the border continues. Bobby Williams plans to take a load in December, as soon as he confirms a day with Bro. Banda.

5. The church has been faithful in bringing items for The Haven. Those items collected in November will be taken there in the next few weeks.

6. We were so blessed to have a real live missionary speak in our church Sunday. What a good thing.

7. Our church filled 54 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you!

A Great *MultiFude* + YOU
Rev. 7:9

- **November Food Pantry numbers:** 109 families served, 208 total people served, 53 under 18, 98 ages 19 to 64, 57 ages 65 and over
- **December Food Pantry** will be Friday morning, December 11, drive-through only, 9:00-11:00.
- **December radio spots** will be done by Janis Groves (30-4), Laurie Morton (7-11), Becky Martin (14-18), Bro. Jeff (21-25), and Betty Smith (28-1).
- **Deacons on call in December** are Farion Morton(325-240-9764) and Jerry Caraway (325-240-9791).

For your calendar

Nov. 29-Dec. 6: Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Dec. 6: St. Paul Speaks, morning service; deacons meeting @ 5:00

Dec. 7: LIBA breakfast, Down Home Country Cooking, 8:30

Dec. 11, 9-11: Food Pantry food distribution

Dec. 13, 4:00: Community Choir Christmas Concert, *One Small Child*

Dec. 16, 6:00: BAM Christmas Family Night

Dec. 20, 5:00: Business meeting

Dec. 24, 6:00: Christmas Eve candlelight service

Dec. 27, 4:00: Church council meeting

Jan. 4th Associational Meeting – FBC Santa Anna- 5pm, Meal at 6pm, Service 6:45 with Dr. David Hardage of BGCT

Wednesday Ministries

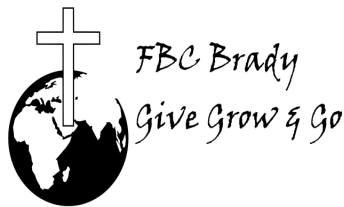
6:00 BAM children’s ministry (not Dec. 23 or 30)

6:00 Bible study on Philippians

7:00 Youth

December birthdays

- 12-1 Jackie Maxcey, Jessica Castillo
- 12-3 Cheyenne Huckins, Robin Cook
- 12-9 Lois Patton, Sam Quattlebaum
- 12-11 RaNon Caraway
- 12-15 Jerry Caraway
- 12-17 Maurice Mallow
- 12-18 Roy Guthrie, Rhonda Capps
- 12-21 James Ridout, Josh Day
- 12-22 Cooper Bean
- 12-28 Mary Ann Wilton
- 12-29 James Mallow
- 12-30 Ed Weber



Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)*

(Memory verse for November)

- Bro. Jeff Quattlebaum, Misty, Regan, and Sam
- All health care workers; local, state, and national leaders; school administrators, teachers, and staff; and missionaries
- All who have Covid-19
- our church staff and ministries
- our members in the nursing homes and our homebound members
- the lost and unchurched in our community
- Brady children & youth
- the Navajo Nation

Wyatt & Francisca Anderson
 Marshall Armstrong
 Mary Ballew
 Don and Lucy Baughn
 Holden Bedwell

Amelia Britteon
 Bill Burns
 Sherry Cox
 Glen Douglas
 Shelton & Chere Durst
 Fayrene Easley
 Barbara Fields
 Charlie and Maria Garcia
 Tony, Janis, & Holly Groves
 Nita Groves
 Roy Guthrie
 Betty Henderson
 Curtis and Genna Jennings
 Leslie Jones
 Rex Joslin
 Thomas Lara
 Shawna Mitzel Josephson
 Janie Lowery
 James and Maurice Mallow
 Jennifer McAnally
 Ericka Moore
 Louise Morrow
 Alisa & Brayden Morton

Justin Norris
 Lois Patton
 Norma Ridout
 James & Anna Richards
 Tristan Rodriguez
 Kelly Rushfeldt
 Betty Sargent
 Mike and Tanzee Shedd
 Edith Slaughter
 Madison Slaughter
 Kathy Stanley
 Jack and Susan Turk
 Becky and Ed Weber
 Linda Wall
 Megan Wall
 Mackie Jo Walters
 Dale Webb

In military:
 Jon Bradshaw
 Brandon Haymon
 David Hernandez

Jose Lopez
 Moses Marmolejo
 Jennifer McAnally
 Concho Moore
 Brandon Pfannenstiel
 Jace Telford
 Joseph Telford
 Jonathan Torres
 Wes Stark
 Justin Williams
 Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of Pat Gary, Kenneth Young, Larry Auvenshine, Zoda Lawrence, Billy Whitaker, and Felicitas Castillo de Martinez.

First Baptist Church Brady, Texas

The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. If you would like a reminder of when it is posted each month, send your email address to Becky Martin: becky@scottmartin.net. Paper copies are available at the church and can be mailed on request.

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(24) And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, (25) not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (CSB)

Memory verse for December

To First Baptist Church:
 Thank you for all the love, prayers, and support given to our family during this difficult time. The cards, phone calls, gifts to the church, and the wonderful meal for our large family was very good and much appreciated. The service was all we could have wanted and we will ever be thankful for all those who had a part in it. Kenneth loved all of you and you were special to him.
 Thank you with all my heart,
 Claudette

Cookies needed!

Because of Covid precautions we are unable to host our usual Christmas reception for our Food Pantry friends this year.

Instead, we will put bags of Christmas cookies in the food boxes on December 11.

We need lots of cookies!

This time, instead of plates of cookies, please pre-package your cookies in small Ziploc bags, 2 cookies per bag. Then we will put an assortment in each gift bag.

Please bring your goodies to the church office by Wednesday, December 9.
 Thank you!

